

REUTERS
7 MARCH 1983

SUBJECT: DCI-USSR

WASHINGTON, MARCH 7, REUTER -- CIA DIRECTOR WILLIAM CASEY TODAY SAID SOVIET LEADER YURI ANDROPOV MUST RETAIN THE SUPPORT OF THE MILITARY TO STAY IN POWER.

IN ONE OF HIS RARE PUBLIC APPEARANCES, THE HEAD OF THE CIA (CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY) SAID THE NEW SOVIET LEADER'S POWER TO AMEND POLICIES "DEPENDS ON HIS ABILITY TO KEEP INTACT THE SUPPORT OF THE COALITION THAT PUT HIM IN POWER."

AND, CASEY SAID, THE SECURITY POLICE -- WHICH ANDROPOV HAD LONG HEADED -- AND THE DEFENSE MINISTRY WERE BEHIND THE NEW LEADER'S ASCENDENCY TO THE PARTY CHAIRMANSHIP.

"NO LEADER OF THE SOVIET UNION HAS A FREE HAND TO CALL THE SHOTS AS HE WISHES," CASEY SAID.

HE MADE HIS REMARKS TO A MEETING OF THE NATIONAL DEFENSE EXECUTIVE RESERVE, AN ORGANIZATION OF VOLUNTEERS WHO WOULD BE CALLED ON TO HELP MANAGE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN TIME OF WAR.

"WE DO NOT KNOW WITH MUCH CONFIDENCE WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THIS NEW LEADER," CASEY SAID.

WHILE THE SOVIET LEADER HAD DISCUSSED ARMS CUTS AND CONSUMER NEEDS, "OVER THE LONG RUN MR. ANDROPOV WILL PROBABLY FIND IT POLITICALLY NECESSARY TO PLACE A HIGH PRIORITY ON SATISFYING THE MILITARY," CASEY SAID.

REUTER 1627 RT